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IN ECCLESIASTICAL POLITICS

A Tennessee Philosopher Muses Upon the Preacher's Pull and the World's New Ways.

The Scramble for the A. M. E. Bishopric—A Warm Campaign Ahead—Nashville's Two Candidates—The Claims of Dr. C. S. Smith—Logically in Line of Promotion—Pen Pictures of the Doctors—Poetical Fantasy.

Dah wuz constanation in de bahn-yahd.
Ode freezin' wintah's day,
An' all de fowls wuz puzzled
In a caw's obht ob way.
Kase a pulit wuz cacklin'
Jes lak de olden hens,
An' she flopped huh wings and flut-tahd,
Den flew up on de fence.
Saw de roostah rushin' roun'
Jes at a feahful rate,
Tawz somebun' so unusual,
Dat he begin to 'investigate.
So, he went into de henhouse
An' scratched up all de straw,
An' looked wid liberation,
But not one egg he saw.
Den he said, as wise as Sol'mon,
As he stood dah on one leg,
"Dah's many a hen dat cackled,
Dat nevah laid no egg."

Dah am so many Christians
Lidin' in dese days an' times,
Wah does a lot on cacklin'
An' singin' 'ligious hymns.
Dey am de leadans in de shoutin'
An' de jumpin' up an' down,
An' de patin' an' de stompin'
An' de shakin' han's aroun'
Dey'll fin' when dey come to judgment,
(An' it am gittin' mighty close.)
Dat him dat do de cacklin'
Aint him dat do de mos'.
When dey wuz yellin' an' a-whoopin',
An' puttin' on dem airs,
Dey betan been like Jacob,
A-sayin' 'oddey prayahs;
Kase de Mastah shush to cuss dem,
An' take dem down a peg,
Kase dah many a hen dat cackled,
Dat nevah laid no egg.

PHIL BROWN.
Nashville, Tenn., Special.—I am not a preacher; nor am I a preacher's son, but "Oh, wad the powers the gittie gime" either or both of these distinctions especially in these degenerate days of church politics.

Lives there a man with a soul so dead, who never to himself hath said, "I long to be a preacher?"

There was a time when the wielders of this gentle craft devoted their days and e'en their nights to clearing the thickly pathways that lead the mortal to immortal salvation. Creeds and tenets were gracefully stumbled over to reach that all-inspiring goal, and a minister was a missionary of mercy. He was called; now alas, he is elected. Forsooth, he runneth for the office, and emolument lendeth speed to his legs. Ministering to the spiritual needs of suffering mankind has given place to the more exciting game of politics. If you are a preacher, you are entitled to a hand; "if you sinit, you aint." This is why I missed my calling.

I want to be a soldier,
A soldier of the cross,
I'll begin at the bottom,
And soon I'll be a boss.

It is interesting to note the innumerable metamorphoses that are transpiring in these latter days and to watch the process of worldly and ecclesiastical assimilation. The church is assuming ways of the world, and the world with wonderful sang froid is taking on the practices of the church. Oh, that Martin Luther could have lived to see the realization of his dream! For verily the church and the world are coming together. It is, however, an exemplification of the broad principle of reciprocity. The church is meeting the world half-way, inasmuch as both have adopted an open door policy.

Aside from the neglect of languishing souls, the new school of church politics furnishes a fine field for study to the layman, and causes the inert politician to yearn for church connections.

In the A. M. E. Church at present

there is a campaign which would make the average Tammany brave quiver with envy. In this campaign the piece de resistance is the bishopric and clever wire pulling is the order of the day. The State Conferences resemble the national meetings of a great party. The candidates hustle like their lives depended upon their efforts and make promises as brittle as pie crust. When the State delegates are chosen to represent the churches in the National Conference, their complexion (political complexion I mean) and preferences are studied with care. The denominational and secular papers are filled with gentle hints concerning the private lives of the candidates, and the washerwoman who solemnly digs into her tub and contributes her mite to the Lord, gets an insight into the unwritten biography of her pastor.

The brethren of church politics and the trade of vituperation as well as the questionable methods of the candidates bodes ill for the church and make more sinners than years of gospel preaching can convert.

Nashville has two candidates for episcopal honors in the A. M. E. Church Dr. C. S. Smith, founder and secretary of the Sunday School Union and Rev. Evans Tyree, pastor of St. John Church in this city. Both gentlemen have acquired a national reputation and are well able to fill the office of Bishop. Dr. Smith is the idol of the Sunday school children of the denomination, with whom he has held a close personal relationship for nearly a score of years. He is a brilliant man, a traveler and an orator. Thousands upon thousands of men who have grown up from Sunday schools that have nourished by Dr. Smith's admirable institution demand that their idol be elevated to a higher place in the Church.

In the A. M. E. Church a line of promotion has been pretty generally recognized. When a man faithfully and successfully filled a place in one of the great departments of the church, he has been rewarded by a final elevation to the bishopric. Every four years this denomination becomes more democratic. All of the various departments have been recognized but the Sunday Schools. Theodore Roosevelt, it is claimed, is the only public man of today who educated himself to be a servant of the public. This can be said of Dr. Smith in regard to the Methodist Church. Wherever the banner of African Methodism has been unfurled, Dr. Smith has visited and added his intelligent personality to the extension of its influence. He is the only Negro I know, who has visited four black republics and studied their economic conditions.

Taken all in all, Brother Smith would make a fine Bishop and he deserves the job.

Nashville is a good town to study the condition of the Negro. The progress made by the colored folks hereabouts is simply marvelous. We have two Doctors, Boyd, you know, R. F. Boyd, a doctor of medicine, who is a professor of gynecology, or something like that, in Meharry Medical College. This Dr. Boyd has a singular hobby—buying property, farms and things and building great big office buildings right in among the white folks. This fellow has just finished a building, a pressed brick structure, with something like 50 rooms in it and sandwiched it right in between a fine Cathedral and the leading hotel of the city. Then he had the irrepressible nerve to hire a Negro stone-mason to chisel his black name, "Boyd" on a big piece of marble and to put it way up high, between the fifth and sixth stories, so everybody could see it. Now what do you think of this chap?

The other Boyd—R. H. Boyd, a doc-

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MEN OF THE HOUR



REV. C. S. SMITH, D. D., Secretary of the Sunday School Union, of the A. M. E. Connection. In Line of Promotion to the Bishopric and Likely to be Elected.



DR. R. F. BOYD.
Nashville's Leading Physicians Has a Commendable Penchant for Erecting First class Business Buildings and Encouraging Race Enterprise.

Facts For Methodists.

The A. M. E. Zion Church was incorporated in 1801, and the A. M. E. in 1807, according to Bishop Walters, but the first general convention of the latter church having been held in 1816, five years prior to the general organization of the Zion, it is the older body. The A. M. E. is admitted to be the stronger numerically, and raises more money, as their per capita assessment is \$1.00, while that of Zion is but fifty cents. These facts were all established in a recent interesting discussion between the Christian Recorder and the Star of Zion.

Colors for the 49th.

Just before leaving Jefferson Barracks, Mo., the 49th Regiment, U. S. A. was presented with a handsome stand of colors by their numerous admirers. Speeches were made by Congressmen Pearce and Bartholdt.

What Bethel Has to Offer.

Subjoined is given the order of exercises during the next few weeks at Bethel Literary and Historical Association. The attractions are of the highest and most instructive quality:

December 12.—Topic—The Bible. 1st As a Great Literary Book—Rev. William V. Tunnell. 2. As an Ethical Standard—Rev. Sterling N. Brown. 3. As a Divine Revelation.—Rev. Isaac L. Thomas.

January 2, 1900.—Topic—The Negro in Politics. 1. In the Past—Hon. P. B. S. Pinchback. 2. His Present Political Status—Hon. George H. White, M. C. 3. His Political Future—Mr. Robert H. Terrell.

January 9.—Topic—Our Aboriginal Landholders. Prof. W. J. McGee, President Anthropological Society.

ELECTION DAY IN BOSTON

Republicans Have a Splendid Ticket and It Deserves the Negro Voters' Support.

Afro-American Candidates and Campaign Friends of the Race Should Receive Our X Mark Tuesday—Ovation to Booker T. Washington—He Grows in Popularity as His Work is Understood—Crisp Comment on Current Events.

Boston, Mass., Special.—The 11th Ward in the city of Boston was the only balliwick that had an Afro-American elected to any office in the gift of the citizens in 1899. Edward A. Armistead had the distinguished honor of being one of the leaders on the floor of the Common Council, and his efforts were heartily seconded by Messrs. W. J. B. Stevens and Lawrence J. Stockton, both of whom represent the wealth and influence of the leading citizens and business men of the ward. Both of these gentlemen have exerted a wide influence for good and have on each and every occasion been willing to advance the interests of the Afro-American voter. They are both candidates for re-election to the positions they held last year, and should be heartily supported at the polls next Tuesday. Their character as city legislators is unblemished, and our citizens should feel honored in supporting them. Party differences should be laid aside in selecting men to transact the affairs of this municipality. Let every citizen who desires good government at the City Hall place an X mark opposite the names of W. J. B. Stevens and Lawrence J. Stockton when they mark their ballot on Tuesday next.

The Boston Daily Record in commenting on Charles F. Dolan, Esq., (an old Phillips School boy, and a great friend of the colored boys of the West End, who is considered one of the most affable attaches of the Superior Court) says that he is the most popular employee of the staff of Sheriff O'Brien, and is always ready to assist a friend, no matter what his color or condition is. Mr. Dolan is a constant reader of the newspapers edited and controlled by Afro-Americans, and takes a deep interest in the doings and sayings of the various contributors to the literary efforts of the colored people.

Next Tuesday the election for Mayor Street Commissioner, Members of the School Committee, Alderman and Councilman occurs. The Republicans have made an excellent choice in selecting as their standard bearers ex-Mayor and ex-Postmaster Hon. Thomas N. Hart for the chief city executive, and Alderman Alfred N. Presbo, for Street Commissioner, as well as nominating a strong ticket for members of the School Committee. Every candidate whose name is on the ticket has a record he or she may be proud of. Every vote cast for them is a vote in the right direction. Every colored man no matter what his past affiliations may have been, should give the candidates on the Republican Ticket their hearty indorsement at the polls.

Booker T. Washington visited this city and was highly entertained by the leading educators and prominent colored citizens at the Charles Street church on Friday evening of last week. He delivered an eloquent address, full of practical ideas and showing in the course of his remarks, the necessity for the Negro to educate himself along industrial lines. He was applauded. Clifford H. Plummer, Esq., presided, Edgar Benjamin acted as secretary. Councilman Edward A. Armistead spoke for the city of Boston, and Edward Mead, a prominent white citizen eulogized Washington and his work. The Arion Orchestra, Thomas C. Bovell, manager, furnished excellent music for the occasion.

At the American House on last Saturday evening a large gathering of business and professional men gathered

to honor Prof. Washington with a banquet. Speeches were made by some of the ablest men of our race in this vicinity, as well as by Prof. Washington and others. Prof. Washington seemed highly pleased at this manifestation of the citizens of Boston, as it was in marked contrast with the receptions heretofore accorded by the colored people of the Hub. In the course of his remarks, he completely dispelled the idea that he was not in favor of higher education for the Negro.

Mrs. Irene Juris, the popular president of the Phyllis Wheatley Club, formerly of Washington, D. C., had charge of the exercises at the formal opening of the rooms for Friendless Girls at 17 Grove Street on Tuesday evening of last week. A fine program was rendered by several young ladies. Mrs. Agnes Adams, a well-known literary woman, made a fine address, fraught with good advice to the audience. The opening of the rooms fills a long felt want in this community.

Mrs. Mary Lee is, perhaps, the most energetic worker in the order of True Reformers in this section of the country, and generally makes a success in all her undertakings. At the hall of Maceo Fountain, 1234 Washington Street, on Thanksgiving night an enjoyable entertainment was gotten up by her, assisted by an efficient corps of members of the Fountain, and the financial success was great. Several times the young Masters and Misses were applauded for their performances. The Cake Walk in which 16 youths participated was quite interesting and was won by Master Joseph Smith and Miss George Booker, who captured first prize, Master Charles Hanson, and Miss E. M. Botts captured the second. Mrs. Josie C. Newman deserves praise for the excellent manner in which she drilled the children for the event. Master George Seaford as the Master of Ceremonies creditably filled that trying position.

Some of the denizens of Phillips Street would do well if after receiving assistance from persons who are in a position to help them and who have done so, they would cease their ungrateful actions. When persons desire aid and obtain it, they should be the last persons in the world to assail those who aided them. We refer to a recent appointment made at the U. S. Navy Yard here. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Brother W. L. Grant, one of the trusted officials of the Zion A. M. E. church, is arranging for a grand star concert at the Malden. Among the artists that will participate, will be several new stars.

At the entertainment of the Maceo Fountain on Thanksgiving night, Steamboat Joe Horn rendered several of his excellent imitations of locomotives and steam vessels. Praise should be accorded to Mrs. Hopewell for the part she took in assisting to make the affair a success. She is an energetic worker of the True Reformers.

James W. Broome, the well-known tonorial artist, keeps The Colored American for sale at his establishment. Parties desiring it delivered by carrier are respectfully requested to leave their name and address at his parlors, corner of Blossom and Cambridge streets.

Hon. A. A. Perry delivered an interesting lecture on John Brown before the members of the John Brown Council of Women and the National Colored League at the A. M. E. Zion church last Monday evening on the occasion of the anniversary of the martyred hero. The venerable lawyer Hon. Edwin G. Walker presided and introduced the lecturer. The exercises were well attended and the singing of Miss Nana Vars, the celebrated soprano from St. Louis was highly appreciated. A collection was lifted to aid the church and associations having the affair in charge.

A meeting in the interest of the Co-Operative Association formed for business purposes among our people was

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